IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-18 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please add new Claims 19-28 as shown below.

1. - 18. (Cancelled)

19. (New) An information processing system including a terminal apparatus and a server:

said server comprising:

addition means for adding a sampling program to a digital content, the sampling program being automatically activated to sample information embedded as an electronic watermark in the digital content;

embedding means for embedding utilization control information of the digital content as an electronic watermark in the digital content having the added sampling program; and

transferring means for transferring the digital content having the embedded utilization control information; and

said terminal apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving the digital content with the added sampling program and the utilization control information embedded by said server;

sampling means for automatically activating the sampling program and sampling the utilization control information from the digital content; and

control means for controlling the digital content in accordance with the sampled utilization control information.

20. (New) An information processing apparatus comprising:

addition means for adding a sampling program to a digital content, the sampling program being automatically activated to sample information embedded as an electronic watermark in the digital content;

embedding means for embedding utilization control information of the digital content as an electronic watermark in the digital content having the added sampling program; and

output means for outputting the digital content having the embedded utilization control information.

21. (New) An information processing apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting digital content including a sampling program which is automatically activated to sample information embedded as an electronic watermark in the digital content;

sampling means for sampling utilization control information embedded as an electronic watermark in the digital content; and

control means for controlling utilization of the digital content in accordance with the sampled utilization control information.

22. (New) An information processing method comprising:

an addition step of adding a sampling program to a digital content, the sampling program being automatically activated to sample information embedded as an electronic watermark in the digital content;

an embedding step of embedding utilization control information of the digital content as an electronic watermark in the digital content having the added sampling program; and

an output step of outputting the digital content having the embedded utilization control information.

23. (New) An information processing method comprising:

an input step of inputting digital content including a sampling program which is automatically activated to sample information embedded as an electronic watermark in the digital content;

a sampling step of sampling utilization control information embedded as an electronic watermark in the digital content; and

a control step of controlling utilization of the digital content in accordance with the sampled utilization control information.

24. (New) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for executing steps of an information processing method, the program comprising:

an addition step of adding a sampling program to a digital content, the sampling program being automatically activated to sample information embedded as an electronic watermark in the digital content;

an embedding step of embedding utilization control information of the digital content as an electronic watermark in the digital contents having the added sampling program; and

an output step of outputting the digital content having the embedded utilization control information.

25. (New) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for executing steps of an information processing method, the program comprising:

an input step of inputting digital content including a sampling program which is automatically activated to sample information embedded as an electronic watermark embedded in the digital content;

a sampling step of sampling utilization control information embedded as an electronic watermark in the digital content; and

a control step of controlling utilization of the digital content in accordance with the sampled utilization control information.

26. (New) An information processing system including a terminal apparatus and a server:

said server comprising:

embedding means for embedding utilization control information of digital content as an electronic watermark in the digital content;

addition means for adding a sampling program to an application program for utilizing the digital content, the sampling program being automatically activated to sample information embedded as an electronic watermark in the digital content;

transferring means for transferring the digital content and the application program to which the sampling program is added; and

said terminal apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving the application program and the digital content from said server;

sampling means for automatically activating the sampling program added to the application program and sampling the utilization control information from the digital content; and

control means for controlling the digital content in accordance with the sampled utilization control information.

27. (New) An information processing apparatus comprising:

embedding means for embedding utilization control information of digital content as an electronic watermark in the digital content;

addition means for adding a sampling program to an application program for utilizing the digital content, the sampling program being automatically activated to sample information embedded as an electronic watermark in the digital content; and

output means for outputting the digital content and the application program to which the sampling program is added.

28. (New) An information processing method comprising:

an embedding step of embedding utilization control information of digital content as an electronic watermark in the digital content;

an addition step of adding a sampling program to an application program for utilizing the digital content, the sampling program being automatically activated to sample information embedded as an electronic watermark in the digital content; and

an output step of outputting the digital content and the application program to which the sampling program is added.